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**Written Testimony - Gregory B. Allard, Vice President**  
**Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers**

**Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee**

**March 2, 2009**

Senator Daily, Representative Staples and other distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee;

This written testimony is being submitted in opposition to Raised Bill No. 999 "An Act Concerning the Motor Vehicle Fuels Tax and Funding for Rail Projects" and in particular the increase in gasoline and diesel fuel taxes.

As you are aware, Bill No. 999 states that both gasoline and diesel will be receiving significant tax increases. Members of this Association have large fleets that require a hundreds of gallons of fuel every day. Each vehicle within in our fleet is responding to more emergencies than all the other EMS providers combined in Connecticut. We also perform all of the non-emergency ambulance transportation in Connecticut. Both of these services are vital to the lives of your constituents.

For years the Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers has been requesting relief on fuel tax. We believe each ambulance service in Connecticut should be reaping the same benefit as the municipal and non-profit ambulance services; they do not pay taxes on their fuel. Fuel tax relief for all licensed ambulances could be crucial to keeping these vitals resources available to respond at a moments notice.

The proposed tax increases will clearly have an impact on everyone but it could impact them in an even more adverse way if we can't afford to maintain the size of our current fleets due to these increases. The Association clearly understands this is not the year to ask the State for tax cuts and that is why we did not request one however we can't afford to say 'no' to this proposed increase.

If you have any questions related to my testimony I encourage you to contact me to discuss.

Respectfully submitted,

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